Student name:

Date:

**Identifying and Understanding Figurative Language**

When you see something that seems OUT OF CONTEXT or POETIC or in a UNIQUE STYLE it may be figurative language.

Examples:

**A symbol** is an object that represents an abstract idea. A flag represents American freedom. A raised fist represents rebellion.

**A metaphor** is a comparison between two nouns. The sun is a dangerous predator, scalding our skins. My heart is a fragile piece of china, easily broken.

**A simile** is a comparison between two nouns **using like or as.** His frustration with his teacher erupted like a volcano. My spirit was as broken as a shattered window.

**Working with a partner, try to identify each of these types of figurative language from Make Lemonade and consider their meaning.**

1. “Jeremy dancing his Hacky sack dance, Jolly shimmying her shimmy of ‘I got no problems, no babies’ dads disappeared on me and I ain’t been fired from my job.’ Jilly bouncing on my arm and humming and leaning out from my hip like a flag waving itself. A family from the continent of I don’t know what”  
(Wolff 91).

Type of figurative language:

What two items are being compared?

Why does the author use this comparison? What does it show?

2. “I look at her like I haven’t done before. I feel a machine gun in my head not going off, I feel lightbulbs turning up bright in there, I feel a microphone against my brain” (Wolff 98).

Type of figurative language:

What two items are being compared?

Why does the author use this comparison? What does it show?

3. “She looks at me like I was rude and she says, ‘Here we got chicken pox and I had to miss school and nobody ever tells me nothing and you want to know did I ever play SOCCER?’ And she gives me her resentfulness by saying that word” (Wolff 122).

Type of figurative language:

What two items are being compared?

Why does the author use this comparison? What does it show?

4. “She looks like a promise, like she can just begin living all over again from this minute and everything will be fine” (Wolff 134.)

Type of figurative language:

What two items are being compared?

Why does the author use this comparison? What does it show?

5. “[A]nd up comes Jilly on her two feet looking like somebody on a boat deck, with her surprised face not knowing whether she’s gonna fall down or fly” (Wolff 174).

Type of figurative language:

What two items are being compared?

Why does the author use this comparison? What does it show?

Now create your own:

1. What is a **symbol** for Jeremy’s innocence and bravery?
2. Create a **simile** comparing Jolly’s feelings of being out of place at school.
3. What is a **metaphor** for LaVaughn’s enduring faith in Jolly?
4. Create a **symbol** for LaVaughn’s mother’s protectiveness.